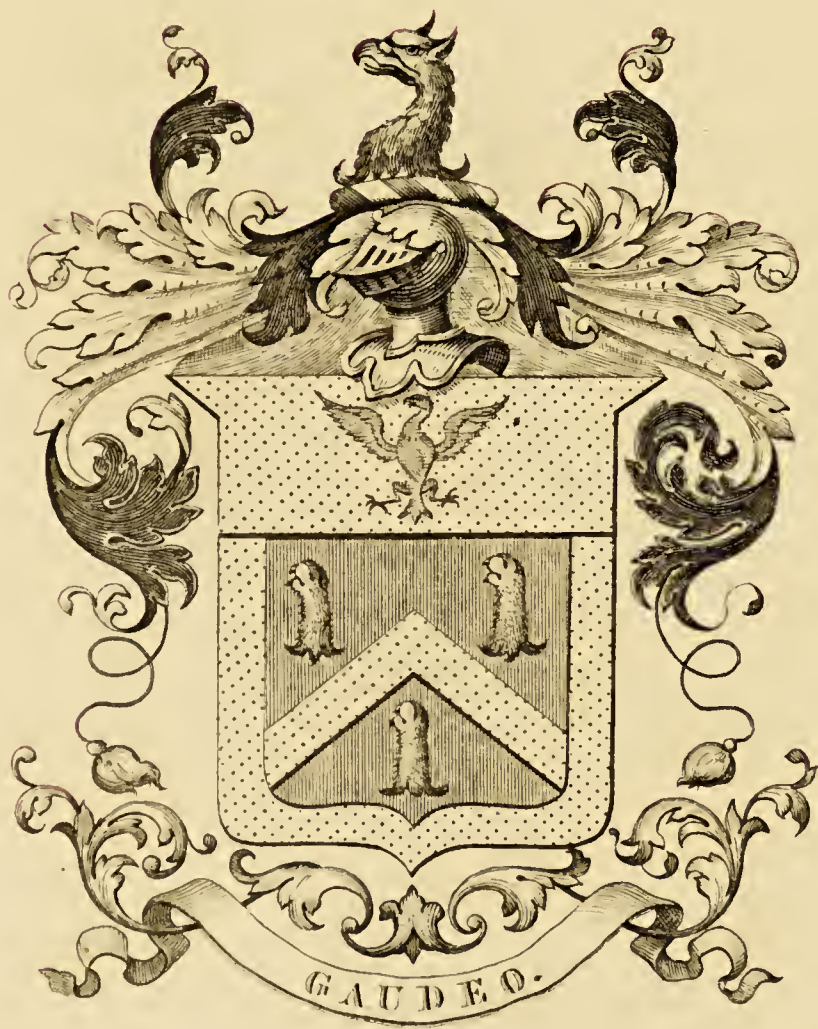
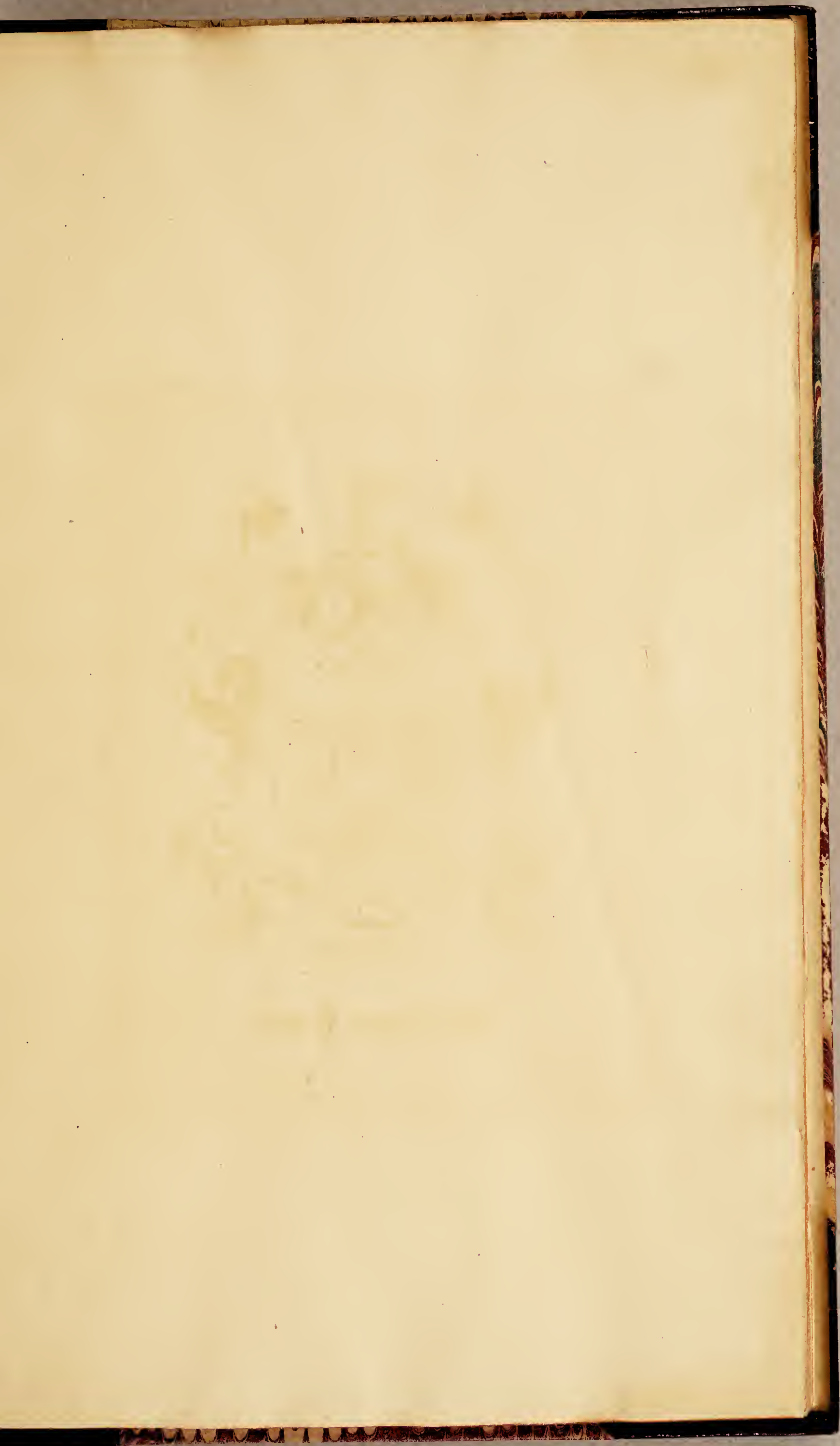


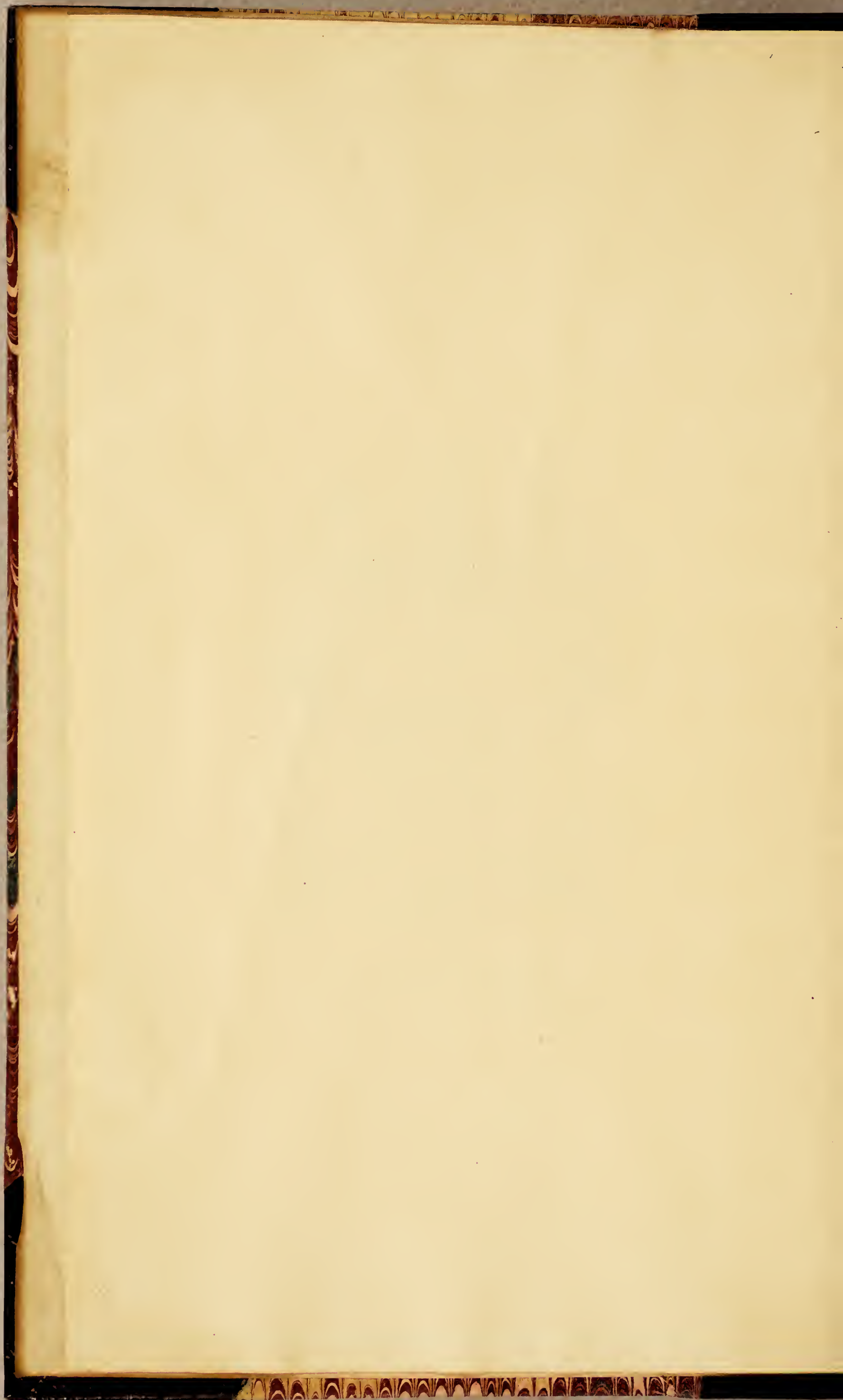


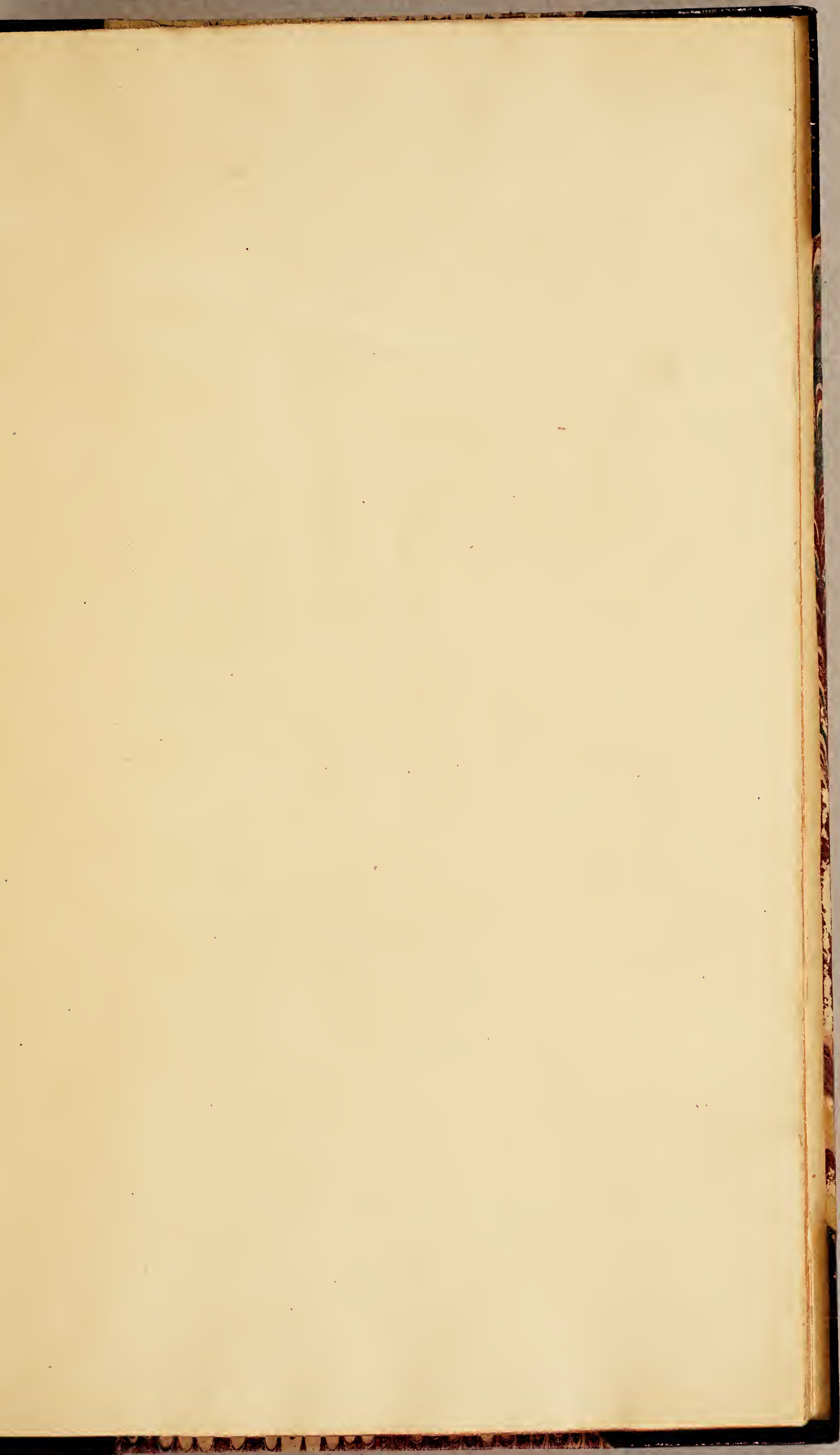
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THE
C A S E
OF THE
IMPORTATION
OF
B A R - I R O N,
FROM OUR OWN

Colonies of *North America*;

Humbly recommended to the Consideration of the present Parliament, by
the IRON MANUFACTURERS
of *Great Britain*.



L O N D O N:

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Holborn.

MDCCLVI.


[Price Six-pence.]

JOHN CARTER BROWN.

RPJCB



Preliminary Propositions.

I.  HERE cannot be a clearer Proposition concerning Trade, than, That it is the Interest of every Manufacturing Country to get as great a *Choice* and *Variety* of *raw* Materials, and upon as *cheap Terms*, as can possibly be procured. For an Error in this Respect, is fundamental, and hardly to be corrected by any subsequent Care or Diligence. Therefore the Legislature hath wisely ordained, That though Wool, for Instance, grows in greater Plenty in *England* than perhaps in any other Country, yet the Wools of all Nations shall be admitted into *England Duty-free*; justly considering, That We can never have *too great* a Choice and Plenty of that necessary Material of extensive and profitable Industry, or upon *too cheap* Terms.

II. A second Proposition, not inferior either in Evidence or Importance, is, That unless some Commodities are taken from other Countries by Way of *Barter* in the Course of Trade, You can have but a small Vent for your own Manufactures; it being im-

possible for any Nation to make *all* their Payments in Gold and Silver, even if they abounded with the richest Mines of those Metals. — Nay, though it were possible, it may be greatly questioned, Whether it is not more for the *Interest* of a *Manufacturing* Nation to import *sometimes* raw Materials by Way of providing for the *future* Industry of their People, than to be *always* importing Gold and Silver; which, when they come to be unconnected with Labour and Industry, (as in this Case they would soon be) have no other Effect, than to introduce Laziness, Vanity and Extravagance. — And in the End Poverty.

III. A third Proposition, by way of Preliminary, is this, That *Cheapness* in regard to *Price*, and *Goodness* in regard to *Quality*, are the Support and Prop of all Manufactures: And that it is impossible, in the Nature of Things, for a Nation to preserve any Manufacture, if they strike off, or suffer to be struck off these two grand Pillars, Cheapness and Goodness. They may indeed tamper for a while; and seem to do something, not unlike a Quack in Physic, towards botching up a broken Constitution; but it will soon appear, that all they have been doing, was only to make bad worse.

These three *Preliminary* Propositions being duly weighed, every real Lover of his Country will be fully qualified to judge of the Truth and Importance of what is to follow.

I. **I**N the Year 1751, Application was made to Parliament for the Admission of Bar-Iron *Duty-free* from our own Colonies. And after various Struggles, as is always the Case, between Self-Interest and the Public Good, the contending Parties seemed to compromise the Difference,—By passing a Law for importing Bar-Iron *Duty-free* into the Port of *London only*, continuing the Restraint against all the other Ports of the Kingdom. The only Indulgence, which could be obtained at that Juncture, was a Permission to Import *Pig-Iron* *Duty-free* into other Places : Of which more shall be said in the Sequel.

Now, when this Law was passed, those Persons who contended for the *Exclusion* of other Ports, rejoiced almost as much as if they had obtained a complete Victory : — And indeed, every Thing considered, the Termination of the Dispute in this manner, was little less. For, as to the *Pig-Iron* imported, that was to come of course into *their* Hands, in order to make it into Bars : So that they were as much at Liberty to engross the Commodity, and to set their own Price upon it, as ever they were. And in regard to the Bar-Iron admitted into the Port of *London* *Duty-free*, this could give them no great Disturbance, because the *Dearness of Coals*, on Account of the heavy Duties paid in that *particular* Port, would effectually prevent any Manufacture from being set up in *London*, or its Neighbourhood : And the Expence of Land-Carriage from *London* to the manufacturing Parts of the Kingdom, would rather be too great for such a ponderous, low-priced Commodity.

Commodity to support. But lest the industrious Artificers of *Birmingham, Walsall, &c.* should avail themselves even of this Circumstance, and get the Waggon which carry their Manufactures to *London*, to return Home with Bar-Iron, a Clause was inserted, to prohibit the Carriage of *American* Bar-Iron beyond ten Miles from the City: By which means, the City of *London* itself enjoys no kind of Advantage from the Exclusion of the other Ports. In short, as the Case stands at present, this Iron *cannot* be used in and about *London*; and it *shall not* be permitted to be carried to those Places where it may be used.

However, the Advocates for a *free Trade* were glad of getting even *so far* towards the Accomplishment of their good Design; hoping, that when the present Clamours had subsided, and Mens Minds became more opened and enlarged by Length of Time, and the natural Progress of Truth, a convenient Season might be found for making this particular Indulgence to the City of *London*, become a general Benefit to the whole Kingdom.—Thus stood the Case on both Sides in the Year 1751. It remains now to shew, What Turn Things have taken, and whether the Reasons for applying to Parliament have ceased, or increased since that time.

But previous to this, it may be proper to observe, for the sake of those who are not conversant in Things of this Nature, that the Persons concerned in the Iron Trade are generally ranged into two Classes, The *Iron* MASTERS, and the *Iron* MANUFACTURERS; And the forming a right Judgment on the Merits of the present Dispute, will greatly depend on a just Distinction between these two Bodies of Men.

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As to the *Iron Masters*; You will please to observe, That the first Process is to refine the Iron from the Ore, by running the Metal into short pieces, like Billet-Wood, called Pig-Iron; and the Proprietor of this Work is termed the *Furnace-Master*. But Note, The only Fuel proper for this Operation is *Wood-Charcoal*. The next Process is to meliorate the Iron, still by means of a *Charcoal* Fire, to render it malleable, and draw it out into Bars by the Strokes of the Great Hammer; The Owner of which Work is stiled the *Forge-Master*. But, generally speaking, the same Person, or Persons, united in a Company, are the Proprietors of both Works: And perhaps of Slitting and Rowling Mills besides; whose common Appellation is therefore, That of *Iron-Masters*. Now, from the very Stating of this Case, it plainly appears, That these Men, though few in Number, must be Men of great Substance, great Capitals in Trade, and capable of exerting a very dangerous Influence, when they find it their Interest so to do, over Men of needy Circumstances, and small Capitals, dependent upon them.

We come therefore in the next Place, to the *Iron-Manufacturers*: These Men receive the Material for their Workmanship from the *Iron Masters* either in Bars, Rods, or Plates, and work it up into all the various Implements, for which *England* is now become so famous over all the World. But please to observe, for it is an important Article; That when the Iron comes into the Hands of the Manufacturers, the Use of *Wood-Charcoal* is from thence-forward entirely laid aside, and that they perform all their Operations with *Pit-coal*. Now, these Men, generally speaking,

speaking, and by Way of Comparison with the former, are but of middling Fortunes: And the Nailers in particular may be ranked among the lower, or the lowest Class of Life. But nevertheless, should You add the whole of their Fortunes together, and consider the immense Yearly Value or Produce of their Labour——And should You make an Estimate of their Usefulness to the *Landed Interest* of the Kingdom, to the several Branches of the Revenue, to all Parts of Commerce internal and external, to Shipping and Navigation, to our Colonies abroad as well as Ourselves at home,——There is no Sort of Comparison, in a *National* View, between the Importance of the one, and that of the other. And yet the whole Contest in this Affair lies between these two Sets of Men, The *Iron-Masters* on one Side, and the *Iron-Manufacturers* on the other: Whereas besides all other Considerations, the Iron-Manufacturers are to the Iron-Masters in Number, at least as TWO THOUSAND to ONE.

This being premised, We now return to the Point in hand; And shall divide all that need be said on this Subject, into *Facts*, — *Reasons*, — and *Answers* to Objections.

F A C T S.

IT is a *Fact*, that the Iron-Manufacture in *England* is increasing every Day; So that the Demand for raw Materials is growing greater and greater. And though the Rise of this Manufacture is but of late Date, compared with some others, yet it hath exceeded them all in its Extent and National Advantage,

Advantage, the *Woollen* only excepted. So that it may justly now be reckoned the SECOND Manufacture in the Kingdom.

II. It is a *Fact*, That the Price of all Bar-Iron whatsoever is greatly encreased since the last Application to Parliament. And if it should go on for any considerable Time longer, enhancing in proportion to what it hath done of late Years, the whole Manufacture will be in Danger of being ruined in *England*, and of removing to some other Country.

III. It is a *Fact*, That the most necessary and useful Part of the *Swedish* Iron imported into this Kingdom, called *Orgroons*, is by means of *Pre-contracts*, and other Ways of secret Management both at home and abroad, monopolized into a few, a *very* few Hands. And it is much to be feared, That the *Russia* Iron will shortly undergo, if it hath not already undergone, the same Fate. Not to mention, That both *Swedish* and *Russia* Iron, being Subject to the Controll of their respective Governments before Exportation, may be stopped at Pleasure, (and from the present Appearance of public Affairs we know not how soon) or may have additional Duties laid upon them, in proportion as those Governments shall take a Disgust to, or perceive, that the *British* Nation cannot do without their Iron; — I say *additional* Duties; for there are some Duties laid on already; and more are threatened; which will make those Commodities come still Dearer to the *English* Manufacturers. The *Swedish* Duties were long ago as high as three Pound twelve Shillings and Sixpence *Sterling* per Ton,
B according


according to the Account of one of our Adversaries. [See a Pamphlet, intituled, *The Interest of Great Britain in supplying herself with Iron.*] And We have too good Grounds for apprehending, that when the present Contract for *Orgroön* Iron is expired, the *Swedish* Government will come to some farther Resolutions, by no means favourable to the Manufactures of *Great Britain*.

As to the manner of vending our own *English* Iron, no Man can be so blind, but must plainly see, That a few rich Men, linked together in a *common Interest*, are much likelier to combine with one another to keep up the Price against the poor, numerous, and unconnected Manufacturers, than the Manufacturers can against them.

IV. It is a *Fact*, That both the *Swedish* and *Russian* Governments have of late *circumscribed* and *stinted* the making of Bar-Iron within their respective Dominions: The *Swedes*, by limiting the annual Quantity to be made; and the Empress of *Russia*, by forbidding the Erection of any Works within such and such Limits, under the severest Penalties. The Consequence of which Restraints will be doubly prejudicial to the Interests of the *British* Manufacturers; first, because the Quantity imported will not answer the Demand of an *increasing* and *growing* Manufacture; and yet, secondly, the Price will be enhanced in Proportion to the Demand. Thus the Evil will be multiplied upon us both Ways.

V. It is a *Fact*, That the Price of Cord-Wood in *England*, necessary for making Charcoal, is *more than*
doubled

doubled of late Years ; and that the Commodity itself begins to be extremely scarce.

VI. It is a *Fact*, That the *American* Bar-Iron has some Qualities in it, peculiarly useful in several of our capital Manufactures ; *viz.* There is one Sort, called *Best Principio*, as good as any in the World for making Fire-Arms :  And there are but few Forges here in *England* which produce an Iron proper for that Purpose. There is also another Sort of *American* Iron, of a tough, wirey Nature, fit, not only for making Wire, *which requires some of the best of Iron*, but also for making excellent long Nails.

VII. It is a *Fact*, That when the *American* Pig-Iron is brought over here, it not only undergoes the Expence of Carriage and Re-carriage into distant Parts of the Country, where the Forges are situated, in order to be made into Bars, (by which means the Price of the Commodity is still enhanced) but it also hath not Justice done it, when it is put into our *English* Forges : That is to say, the Price of Charcoal being so dear here in *England*, and the Demand for *any Sort* of Bar-Iron being great, the Iron-Masters will not allow a Sufficiency of Charcoal to meliorate and purify the Metal, and bring it to its due Consistence and Perfection. Hence it is, that the Credit and Reputation of the Iron Manufacture, unless speedily remedied, will greatly suffer ; — and suffer in every View, *viz.* both by being made in a *less workman-like* Manner by the Manufacturer, in order to make himself Amends for the excessive Dearness of the raw Material ; and also, because it

is impossible for him, were he ever so desirous, to make good Goods out of bad Materials.

VIII. It is a *Fact*, That the Excise, the Post-Office, the Stamp Duties, and all other Branches of the Revenue, (taking in a Course of Years) rise, or sink in Proportion to the Number of Persons industriously imployed, who are the Consumers of Exciseable Commodities, and the Causes of using Stamp-Paper, and of the Circulation of Multitudes of Letters. The Revenues of the Excise and Post-Office, in particular, have been doubled, trebled, quadrupled, and even sextupled, in the Counties of *Stafford* and *Warwick*, since the first settling of the Iron Manufactures in those Provinces.

NOW, as these are all *Matters of Fact*, the Truth of which We must insist upon, and do most humbly recommend to the mature Attention of the Legislature, and of every real Patriot and Lover of his Country; We shall, in the next Place, beg Leave to give our *Reasons* for this present Application to Parliament.

R E A S O N S.

I. **B**Ecause it hath already been made to appear, That every Motive for the Admission of *American* Bar-Iron, which subsisted before the Year 1751, is now grown stronger, and calls the more urgently for public Attention. And the present alarming Connection of *Russia* with *France*, should rouse us the more to turn our Thoughts towards
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our own Colonies for Supplies of Iron; — agreeably to what was done formerly in regard to Pitch and Tar; when *Sweden*, under the Influence of the same constant Enemy, endeavoured to distress us in the Use of those necessary, important Articles. May the Success attending that Affair, be an Encouragement to do the like in this.

II. Because the Importation of Bar, instead of Pig Iron, would be a considerable Saving to the Importers, and consequently to the Manufacturers, in the Price of Freight: That is to say, As *four* Tons of Pig-Iron are generally the Quantity allowed for making *three* Tons of Bar, it therefore follows, that one fourth Part of the Freight, or 25 ¢ Cent. would be saved by importing Bars rather than Pigs. Bars likewise are a more commodious Stowage in the Hold than Pigs. — Not to mention, that by opening a new Market, the Iron-Masters would have it less in their Power to fix their own Price upon the Commodity than they have at present, because the *American* Iron would not then pass through their Hands; and that the necessary Expences of Carriage from the Port to the Forge, and from the Forge to the Manufacturer, would thereby be superseded: Also, that the Material itself would, most probably, be better made in *America*, where Charcoal is cheap, than in *England*, where it is excessive dear, and consequently, not a Sufficiency allowed.

III. Because both *England* the Mother Country, and her Colonies, will be equally benefited by this Proposal; — and benefited without any Expence,
Loss

Loss or Hazard. No Squadrons are to be fitted out to bring this Point to bear; no Forces to embark, no Troops to march, and no foreign Enemy to contend with.— All that is necessary, is, Only to *untie* the Hands of Industry, and to let honest Labour have its free and natural Course among our own People.

IV. Because the Admission of Bar-Iron from our Colonies *Duty-free*, would considerably advance many other Articles of *American* Commerce, which now in a manner lie neglected, or untouch'd. As for Example, Iron being ponderous, and taking up little Room, and other Goods light, and taking up a great deal, a proper Cargo might be made up, at all Times, by joining both together; and by this means, not only the former Articles of Trade might be brought Home upon better Terms than usual, but also many new ones might be introduced, which perhaps are at present little thought of. The Country on both sides of the *Mohawk* River, which comes down to *Albany*, and thence to *New York*, is the fittest in the World, according to the judicious Mr *Colden's* Account, in his *History of the Five Indian Nations*, for raising of Hemp. But, the Importation of this Article, as likewise of Flax from *North America*, hath not hitherto succeeded to the Degree it was expected; which is solely owing to this Circumstance, That Hemp and Flax taking up much Room, and yet being of little Weight, were not able of themselves to support the *whole* Charges of Freight and Insurance. Now the Admission of Bar-Iron tends to remedy this Inconvenience; because 20, 30
or

or 40 Tons may be put into the Bottom of a Ship, by way of Ballast, and yet no Room be lost for the Stowage of Hemp or Flax. Thus therefore, by the mutual Assistance of the *Heavy* and the *Light*, a compleat Cargo of excellent *raw Materials* might be brought from the Colonies to the Mother Country, giving Employment and Bread to Thousands both there and here.

V. A fifth Reason, and the most interesting to *Great Britain*, arises from the following Circumstance; *viz.* That the Manufactures of *Great Britain* cannot be vended in such Quantities in our Northern Colonies, as the *Americans* themselves demand, for want of proper Returns, by way of Barter or Payment.— But, were the *Americans* allowed to send us *more* raw Materials, (Materials which we must purchase with ready Money from other Countries, in Alliance with the *French*, our natural Enemies) the *English* Manufacturers would give them more wrought Goods in Exchange: A most advantageous Commerce on both Parts; or there is no such Thing in Nature! And this likewise is the proper Method of promoting the Interest of the Colonies, and of the Mother Country at the same Time: This would multiply our Shipping and Navigation, would increase his Majesty's Revenue, and do every thing that is necessary to make a Nation great and powerful; — without involving us in any Disputes with *France* or any other Power, or bringing on any Expence or Inconvenience whatsoever.

VI. The last Reason we shall assign, is, Because it appears very clear, that the *American* Bar-Iron is
capable

capable of great Improvements, as to the *Quality*, or Nature of it. — We do not pretend to foretel, what different Sorts of Ore may yet be discovered, when more Works shall be erected, more Experience acquired, and new Veins shall be tried: (Tho' surely we might be allowed to suppose, that what happens in all other Cases will happen in this, *viz.* That new Experiments will bring on new Discoveries and greater Perfection.) But We do assert, That in regard to the *American* Ore already discovered, great Improvements can be made in the Fluxing and Refining of it. And the Manufacturers, who may be allowed to be the best Judges, have Reason to suppose, that certain Sorts of it may be brought near to the Quality of the *Swedish* Orgroon, if made into Bars in such a woody Country as *America*, where there is no Need of stinting the Expence of Charcoal.

Such therefore being the Reasons for this humble Application, We now proceed to our ANSWERS to such Objections as are, or can be brought against us.

Objection “ **I**F the *Americans* are permitted and
 I. “ **I** taught the Way to make Bar-Iron,
 “ they will not stop there, but will proceed to ma-
 “ nufacture it in all its Branches: To which End
 “ their Slaves will be of infinite Use, because they
 “ are obliged to work much cheaper than any Free-
 “ men will, or can: And so, from becoming our
 “ useful Customers, they will soon commence our
 “ most dangerous Rivals.”

General

General Remark.

This Objection comes a little ungracefully out of the Mouth of an *Iron-Master* ; and such a Zeal in *Him* doth not carry the proper Marks of Sincerity along with it. — Were the Case as the Objector represents, the *Iron Manufacturers* would be the first Persons to take the Alarm, and to oppose such a Measure. But they know better ; and desire every Reader to suspend his Judgment for the present, till he has heard what can be said on the other Side.

Answer 1st, This Objection, against permitting or teaching the *Americans* to make Bar-Iron, comes too late : For they are both permitted and taught already. Nor will they now be perswaded to leave off, and to break up their numerous Works, merely to please the Iron-Masters of *England*.

Answer 2d, If there is any Danger to be apprehended, That the *Americans* will in time commence Iron Manufacturers, it can arise only from the *absolute* Necessity that we shall put them under, to act in this Manner, by not allowing them the Means of purchasing our Manufactures. Which Necessity has been the Cause of their setting up so many Works already of different kinds. Take away therefore this Necessity and Compulsion ; and then You are sure of their Custom, because the *English* can sell the Goods to them much cheaper than they can manufacture them. Therefore we now proceed to a

Answer 3d, viz. That as far as concerns the Iron-Manufacture, this supposed *Rivalship* between the Colonies and Us, is *impossible*, provided we do not compel them by *Necessity*. For the Price of Labour is at least *Cent. per Cent.* cheaper in the Counties of *Warwick* and *Stafford*, than it is in any Part of the *British* Plantations. And as to the Labour of Slaves, We could make it appear, were this the proper Place, That Slaves do not *now*, *never* yet did, and never will perform their Work either so *cheap*, or so *well*, as hath been done by Persons, who are spurred on by *Rivalship* and *Emulation*, and the Hopes of Gain. For indeed all Mankind will exert that provident Fore-cast, that Industry, and those Abilities out of *Choice*, and for the Sake of their *own Interest*, to which no Power on Earth can force or compel them. Moreover, as to Pit-Coal, that most necessary Article in the Iron Manufacture, the *Americans* on the Sea Coast, and on this Side the *Apalatean* Mountains, have it not among them. And while that is the Case, neither they, nor *any other Nation* will be able to make any Figure in the Iron Manufacture, unless it be our own Fault, by permitting them to have our Coals at an easy Rate. The *Swedes*, for Example, are the greatest *Iron-Masters* in the World. They are likewise a free People, and work for excessive low Wages; They have Plenty of Charcoal, and very cheap, were Charcoal the proper Fuel for this Purpose. Moreover they have turned their Thoughts for many Years past wholly to Commerce, and they understand Metallurgy as well as any People whatever. Why therefore, with *all these* Advantages, are they so far behind the *English*
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in the Iron-Manufacture? The Reason is plain; They want Pit-Coals; and they cannot procure them, but at such a Price, as must necessarily turn the Balance in our Favour. Judge now of the Weight and Strength of this formidable Objection. Is it not like every other Spectre, terrible at a Distance; but upon nearer Approach, vanishes into — *Nothing?*

Objection II. “ As foreign Iron pays a Duty to the Government of 2*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* ₤ Ton, the Importation of *American* Iron, *Duty-free*, would stop the Consumption of the other, and by that Means prejudice the Revenue, which at this critical Juncture can bear no Loss, nor Defalcation.”

Answer 1st, The Difference of the Distances between *England* and the *Baltic*, and *England* and *North America*, together with the Nature of the respective Voyages, will still preponderate on the Side of *Sweden* and *Russia*, unless these Powers should lay on higher Duties and Discouragements than they do at present: So that the Foreign Materials will still be considered by the Manufacturers as the *chief* Articles of their Consumption. This appears the stronger, if you consider, That it is impossible to import Iron from *North America* in any other Shape than as *Ballast* to other Freights; because, if You was to freight a Ship *wholly* with Iron, the Carriage could not be afforded for less than 25*s.* or 30*s.* ₤ Ton; which is such an Expence as the Material could not bear. But, when it comes only by Way of *Ballast*, taking up no Room that was wanted for other Purposes, it may be brought home

for 6s. or 8s. per Ton. This being the Case, it evidently follows, That an Importation of Iron by Way of Ballast need not raise any great Alarms, either in regard to *British*, or Foreign Iron, because it never can amount to very great Quantities: Perhaps in a long Process of Time, it may rise up to 8, or 10,000 Tons p^{r} Year. However, if this Method should tend to dissolve the present Monopolies of *Swedish* and *Russian* Iron, and consequently lower the Price of them, (which is one great Point to be wished, and aimed at) it would be so far from lessening the Revenue, that it would greatly increase it; because, in that Case, greater Quantities of Foreign Iron would still be imported. For, We must beg Leave again to remark, that the Iron Manufacture is not in a declining, but in an increasing State.

Answer 2d, Granting even, That the Quantities of Foreign Iron would be lessened by a few Tons, or perhaps Scores of Tons, if *American* Iron was admitted Duty-free, (though the contrary Supposition is much more probable) Yet, as this could never happen, but by a very great Increase of the Manufacture, and consequently by a much larger Consumption than usual, of every Exciseable Commodity, by raising the Revenue of the Customs, the Post, and Stamp Offices, the Loss one Way would be compensated more than *fourfold* another Way. Nay, if *one additional* Ton of *American* Iron should be made into *Birmingham-Toys*, it would more than make Amends to the Government for the Non-payment of *ten* Tons, *i. e.* of 24*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* Duty of *Swedish* Iron, at the Customhouse.

Answer

Answer 3d, This tender Regard for the Revenue is a *New* Topic, and only taken up to serve the present Turn. At other Times, it used to be objected by the Iron-Masters, That the Importation of *American* Iron would not at all diminish the Consumption of the Foreign; and consequently, not prejudice the Revenue. And the Reason *then* assigned was, That the *American* Iron being exactly of the same Quality with the *English*, it would wholly supplant the Use of our own Iron, but not that of Foreigners. This was their former Plea, when they had a different Point to serve: But the Truth is, That as *America* is a very large Country, And as there are great Varieties of Ore already discovered, the Iron coming from thence hath various Qualities, some similar to the *English*, some to the *Swedish*, and others to the *Russian*. But, as to stopping the Consumption of either *English*, *Swedish*, or *Russian*, in any *considerable* Degree, it is all Flourish and Declamation. And we can hardly persuade Ourselves, That the Persons are in Earnest who make the Objection. Indeed the present Scheme may lower the exorbitant Price, and Monopoly of all three: And this is the *true* Foundation of the Opposition made to it.

“ *Objection* III. If the *Americans* are suffered
 “ to import their Iron *Duty-free*, all the *English*
 “ Furnaces and Forges must stand still: Because
 “ We cannot pretend to sell as cheap as they can:
 “ Our Woods likewise must be grubbed up; for it
 “ will not be worth the while to preserve them: And
 “ the Country, which is already too bare of Timber,
 “ will still be barer.”

Answer

Answer 1st, That the making of *English* Iron is a most profitable Branch of Business, may be inferred, without farther Proof, from the immense Estates got in that Trade : And, that the *English* Iron-Masters may sell as cheap as the *Americans*, if they please, and cheaper too, all Circumstances considered, is a certain Fact ; Because though the *Americans* have *one* Advantage over the *English*, namely, Cheapness of Charcoal, the *English* have *many* over them, namely, Cheapness of Labour, Exemptions from the Expence of Freight, Commissions, Port-Charges, Warehouses, the Consumption of Rust, &c. &c. Not to mention, that they have likewise the Advantage of Works already built, a long Establishment, Correspondencies formed and settled, and a *commanding* Influence over many of the *poorer* Manufacturers, which hath appeared on many Occasions.

Answer 2d, As to the Destroying of Woods, We know the Fact to be quite the Reverse to what is set forth in the Objection : We know, that Furnaces and Forges are the very *worst Nurses* that could be thought of for rearing up young Woods and Coppices. And We appeal to all the World, whether it is not a notorious Truth, that for one Acre which they have been the cause of planting and preserving, they have been the Means of grubbing up and destroying Thousands. In short, the proper Term for them is *Wood-Devourers*, instead of *Wood-Preservers*. — Besides, We must insist, that the shrowding or cropping of Oak for Charcoal, (which is too common a Practice) is so far from being a Means of
making

making the Trees to grow fit for Timber, that it absolutely spoils them for that Use.

Answer 3d, Experience, which is the surest Guide, hath plainly shewn, that Self-Interest is a very unfit Judge of future Effects, and of the Consequences of Things of this Nature.— The present Cry is, “ That
“ if Bar-Iron from *America* was to be admitted *Du-*
“ *ty-free*, the Country would still grow barer of
“ Timber, because it would not be worth while for
“ the Land-Owners to suffer the Trees to grow.”—
Suppose therefore that instead of Bar-Iron you had said *Wool*, and that an Out-cry was to be raised against the free Importation of Wool: — “ For, if
“ Wool shall be admitted to come from other
“ Countries, especially from *Ireland*, *Duty-free*, Alack-
“ a-day, what will become of Us? — Our Sheep-
“ Walks must all be destroyed; not a Flock, not a
“ single Sheep will be left; because it will not an-
“ swer to rear or keep them: The Tenants must all
“ break; the Landlords lose their Rents; and the
“ Government its Taxes. These will be the Con-
“ sequences of admitting the Importation of Wool
“ *Duty-free*.” Now, You must allow, that this Plea, were it made (and most probably it *was* made) at the Time, when it was debated, Whether it was right to admit foreign Wools *Duty-free*:—I say, that this Plea is at least as good and as reasonable as Yours. You must acknowledge likewise, that the Proprietors of Sheep Lands, and the Growers of Wool, are, in every Sense, a much more considerable Body of Men than the Iron-Masters, and the Proprietors of a few Wood-Lands: And you must
confess

confess, because it is in vain to deny it, that there is a much greater Plausibility in the Argument for opposing the Importation of Wool from our *Neighbours* in *Flanders*, *Germany*, and *Poland*, especially from our *next-door* Neighbours, the *Irish*, (in all which Countries Land and Labour are *much cheaper* than in *England*) — than it would be to oppose the Admission of Bar-Iron coming from so distant a Country as *North America*, where, if Land and Charcoal are cheaper, Labour (the *principal* Concern) is infinitely dearer. Yet, notwithstanding the Plausibility of the Objection, sure and long Experience hath made it to appear, that the Admission of foreign Wool *Duty-free*, hath been so far from preventing the Growth of *English* Wool, that we have at this Day more Sheep and more Wool, the Product of *Great Britain*, than ever we had in former Times. And if you are desirous of knowing the *Reason* of this Fact, it is plainly this, — The free Admission of Materials is the Cause of Labour; Labour is the Cause of Populousness; and a populous Country will always produce more Commodities, and have a readier Market for them, than if it had been thinner peopled.

Objection IV. “Granting that raw Materials ought
 “to be admitted *Duty-free*, yet, as Bar-Iron is rather a *Manufacture* than a *raw Material*, it therefore follows, that the Arguments in favour of
 “raw Materials, should conclude *against* Bar-Iron.”

Answer. This Objection is a mere Play upon Words; and therefore deserves the less Regard. —
 By

By raw Materials, in a Commercial Sense, is to be understood that State or Condition of the Material, which is fittest for Carriage from Place to Place, and *most acceptable to the great Body of the Manufacturers.* For in Cases of this Nature, the general Good of the Whole, or more properly, *the Good of the Majority*, ought to take place of every private Consideration. And therefore, if the Importation of Iron in *Bars*, rather than in *Pigs*, is of most Service to the *general National Manufacture*, We conceive ourselves fully authorised, by the Use and Custom of all Commercial Authors, to call Bar-Iron a *raw Material*. In short, a Commodity may be a *Manufacture* regarding one Thing, and yet a *raw Material* respecting another. But, as We are contending for *Things*, not for *Words*, if you can give us a properer Term, we will willingly adopt it, provided it shall appear, that You and We mean the same Thing. — Hemp and Flax are always called *raw Materials*; and yet Hemp and Flax, and even Wool, undergo several Operations before they are imported. — Nay, woollen and linnen Yarn are imported *Duty-free*, because they are considered as raw Materials.

Objection V. “ The Arguments here made use of
“ for admitting raw Materials *Duty-free*, either prove
“ nothing, or prove too much. For, if they are
“ valid and conclusive, they tend to prove, that
“ *Swedish* and *Russian* Iron ought to be admitted *Du-*
“ *ty-free*, as well as *American.*”

Answer 1st, In all Cases whatever, where raw Materials will come the cheaper to the Manufacturer by
D being

being admitted *Duty-free*, there We readily allow, the Rule for the free Importation of them ought *always* to prevail. Nor is it of any Use to plead, that our present System of Laws have, in some Cases, determined otherwise, unless You could prove at the same Time, that all the Laws now in being in regard to Commerce, are so good, that they cannot be made better; which, We conceive, would prove a very arduous Attempt. But in respect to *Swedish* and *Russian* Iron, it doth not appear to us, that the Importation of them *Duty-free* would lower the Price to the *English* Manufacturer: Because the Governments of *Sweden* and *Russia* would be the only Gainers, by laying on *additional* Duties, in Proportion to what was taken off in *England*. Now this is a Circumstance in which our Colonies in *North America* widely differ from *Sweden* and *Russia*: For these Provinces, those especially which are immediately under the Jurisdiction of the Crown, can lay no Duties whatsoever, without the Consent of the Government at Home.

Answer 2d, In Cases of Competition, our Colonies ought to have the Preference, because they take *English* Manufactures in return, neither *prohibiting* nor *taxing* them. But *Sweden* prohibits almost all our Manufactures: And we know not how soon *Russia* may do the like, and give the Preference to the Manufactures of *France*. However that may prove, one Thing is certain; namely, That what are not prohibited, are considerably taxed both by *Russia* and *Sweden*. This therefore is another Circumstance, which demonstrates, that the Cases are not

not parallel; and consequently, that the Objection is very ill founded, and of no Weight.

UPON the Whole, We are now willing to believe, that every disinterested Person, every impartial Man in the Kingdom, will readily agree, That Bar-Iron ought to be imported from our Colonies *Duty-free*, both for their sakes and ours. As to those who are blinded by Prejudice, or warped by mistaken Notions of Self-Interest, We do not pretend to work Miracles for their Cure: But as far as incontestible Facts may be allowed to speak, as far as Reasons for the public Good can influence or persuade, as far as solid Answers can preponderate over weak, frivolous and captious Objections; — so far We humbly hope We have maintained our Cause; and, relying on the Goodness of it, may trust the Event to the proper Guardians of our Trade and Liberties, THE PARLIAMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN. If We ask any Thing for Ourselves, that is either incompatible with the Public Good, or with the Interest of His Majesty's Revenue, We desire not to succeed: But if the proposed Benefit is general, and our Interests mutual, We cannot help flattering Ourselves, that Those of the *best Hearts*, and *best Abilities*, both in the Senate and out of it, will espouse the Cause, and become the Patrons of so large and numerous a Body of Men, and so necessary to the Commerce of these Kingdoms, as

Their Obligated Humble Servants,

THE IRON MANUFACTURERS
OF GREAT BRITAIN.



P O S T S C R I P T.

IF the Objection drawn from the *supposed* Loss of the Revenue (Pages 18, 19.) should make any Impression at this *critical* Juncture, We have a Proposal in Readiness, which would not only remove that Difficulty, but also greatly increase the public Revenue, at the same Time that it would contribute not a little to the further Progress of the Iron Manufacture: It is this; *To lay a double Duty upon the Exportation of Coal and Culm to foreign Parts.* For it is well known that Coal is a *raw Material* in the most proper and extensive Sense of that Word; It is also certain, That the *French*, the *Dutch*, and other Competitors in Trade, fetch immense Quantities of Coals from this Kingdom, paying for them in Spirituous Liquors, Teas, and other smuggled Goods: And that these Coals are, for the most Part, used in the Manufacture of such Articles as are intended to prevent the Sale of *English* Merchandise: It is moreover an indisputable Fact, that *Germany*, *Holland*, *Flanders*, *France*, and *Spain*, cannot be supplied from any other Collieries but from those of *Great Britain*, because there are none others which have the Quantities sufficient to supply them with. Why then are these raw Materials permitted to be exported, *in a manner*, Duty-free? I say, Duty-free; for

for as to the present Duty, it is so trifling and inconsiderable, that little Care is taken in the Collection of it: Whereas, were the Duty doubled, the very Increase of the Sum would make it important, and insure its Collection. It is therefore a great Supineness, to say no worse, not to avail ourselves of a Circumstance so favourable to our Trade, so totally in our own Power: And those Persons would be hard put to it, to assign any Reason, why the Manufacturers of *Germany, Holland, Flanders, or France,* should be suffered to buy *English* Coals at a cheaper Rate (which they now do) than the Manufacturers of the City of *London*, the Metropolis of the whole Kingdom. — Were the Duty doubled, these Foreigners would be obliged to pay near 30,000 *l.* a Year more than they now do: And this Sum would go a considerable Way towards supplying the Expences of the present War, at the same Time that it would promote our own Manufactures.

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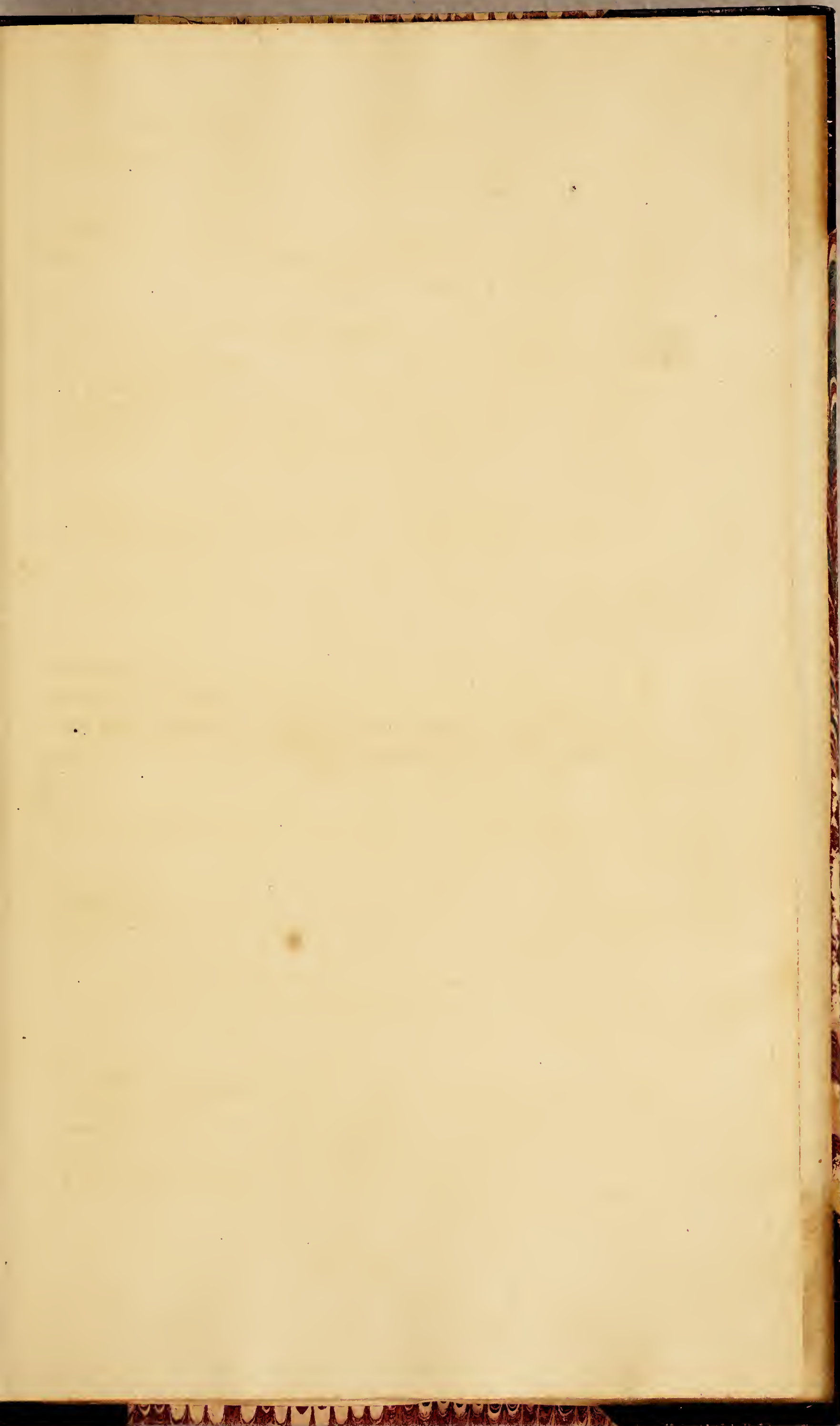
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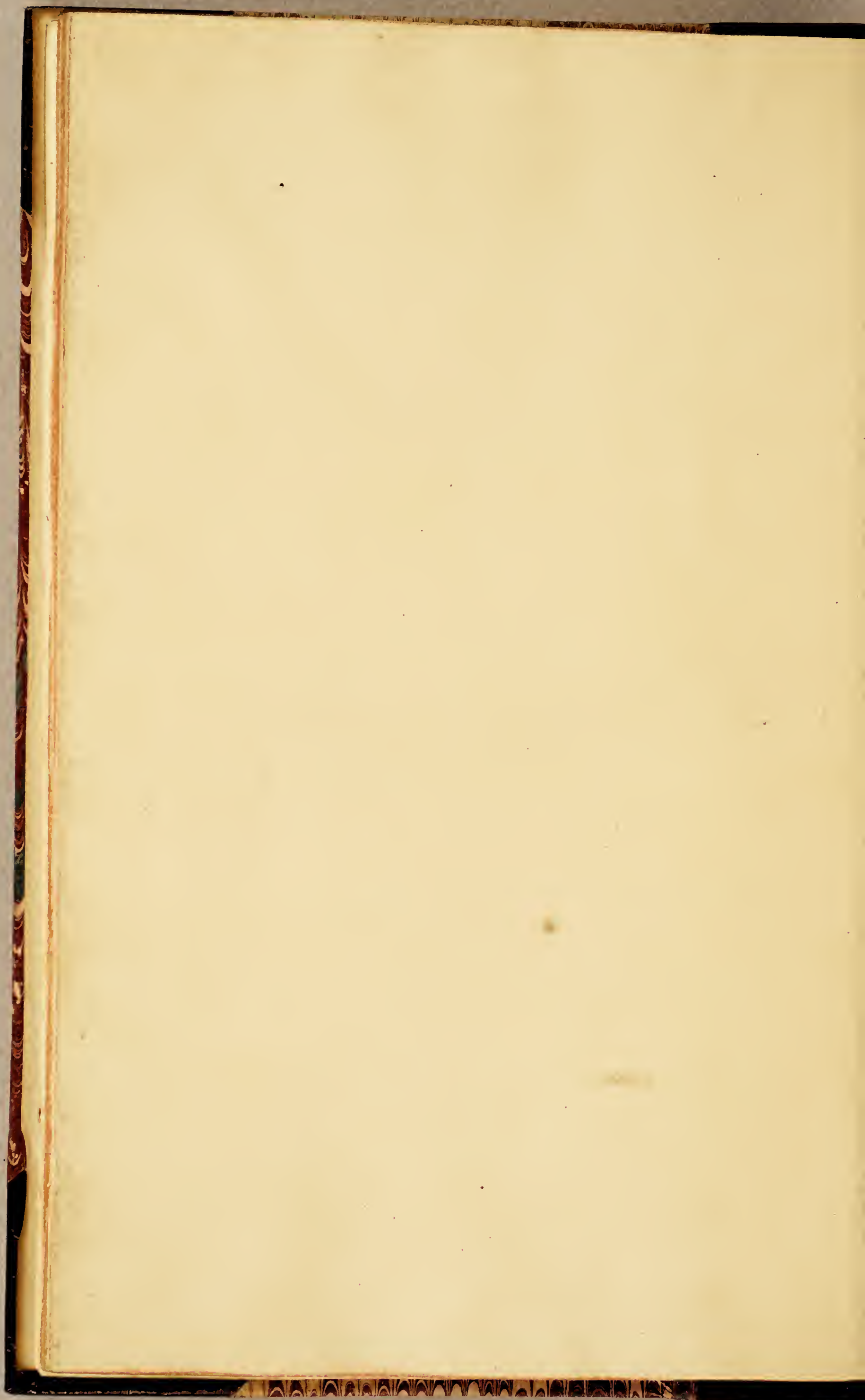
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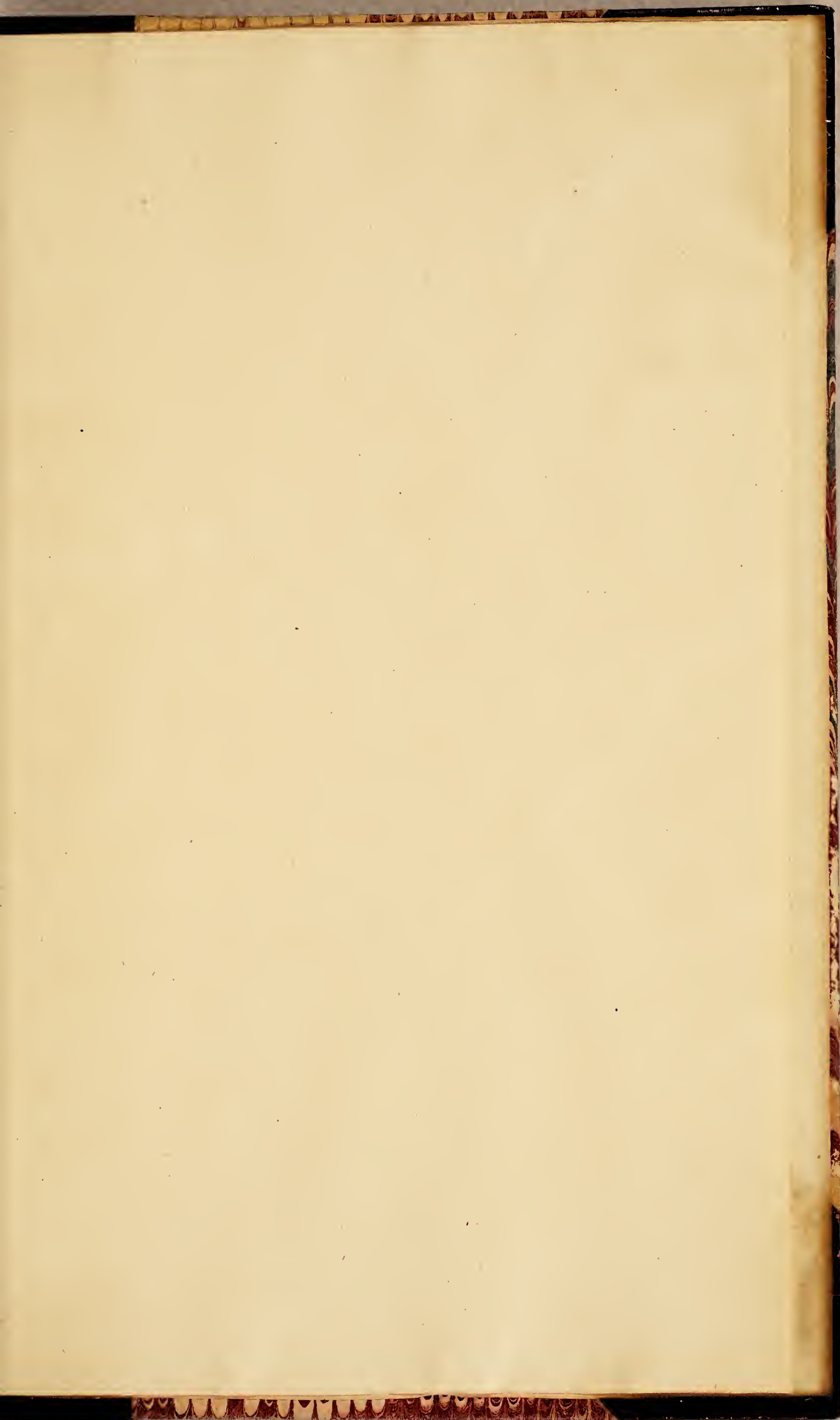
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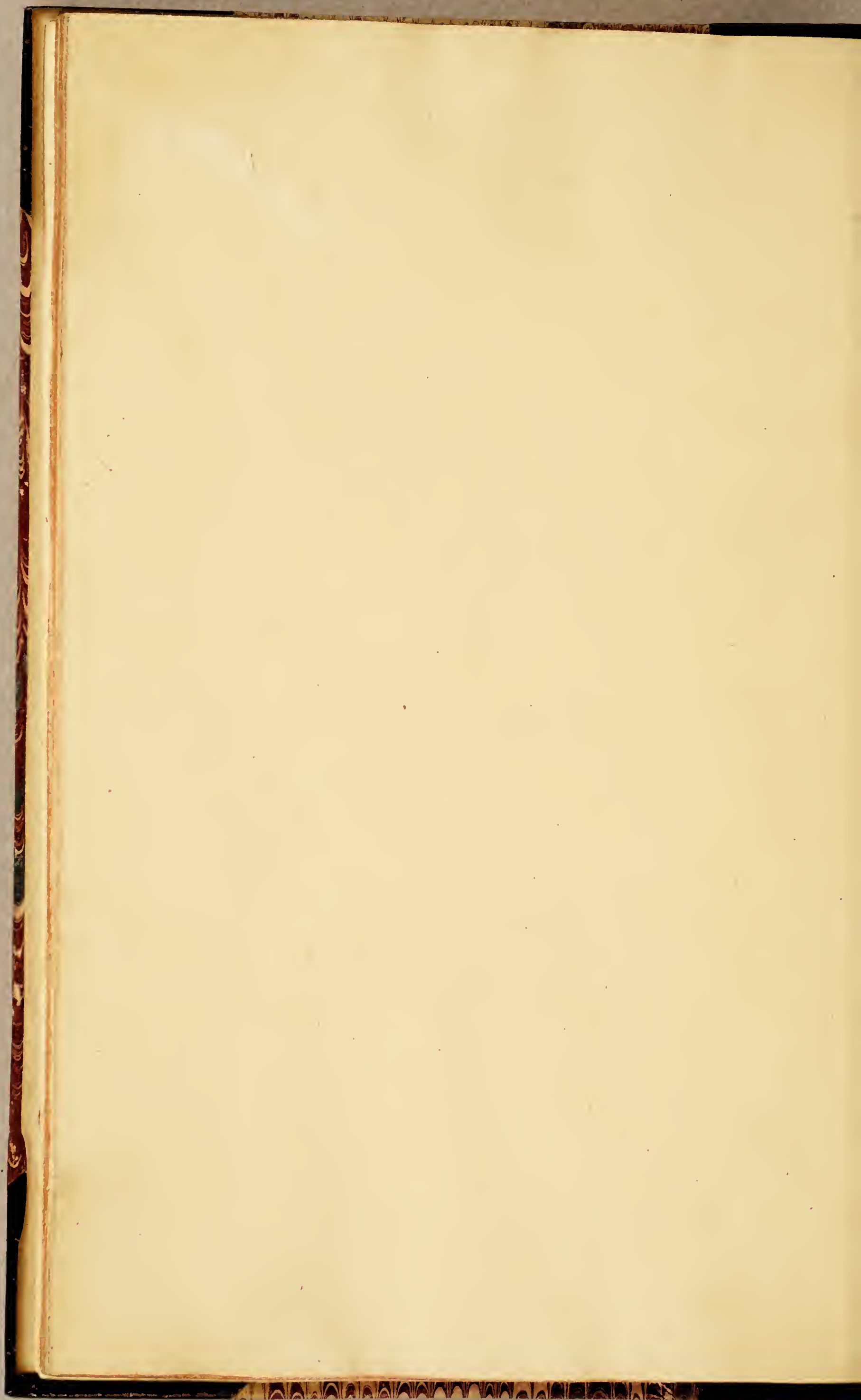
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